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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1950

J. W. INNES, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PRINTED BY
THE WHITEHAVEN NEWS LTD.,
148, QUEEN STREET, WHITEHAVEN.



HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

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Vice-Chairman Councillor KNIPE

The Mayor (Councillor BLAMIRE)

Alderman McSHERRY.

Councillors—BAXTER, FAWCETT, GARRAWAY, HANLON,
and McDONALD.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

J. W. INNES, M.A., M.B.,

Ch.B., D.P.H. *Medical Officer of Health*

J. F. LORD, C.R.S.I. *Sanitary Inspector*

A. A. BELDON, C.R.S.I. *Additional Sanitary Inspector*

MISS DAVIDSON *Clerk*

MISS G. BANKS *Clerk-Typist*

PART TIME.

J. STEPHEN FAULDS, *Bacteriologist, Cumberland*
M.D., F.R.F.P.S. *Laboratory*

C. J. H. STOCK, B.Sc.,
F.I.C. *Analyst*

Health Department,
81, Lowther Street,
Whitehaven.
5th July, 1951.

*To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen
and Councillors, Borough of Whitehaven.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report, as your Medical Officer of Health, for 1950.

The statistics for the year will be found in the various sections of the Report and they show very satisfactory figures in some cases—not quite so good in others.

Births were lower than in the previous year, but the Birth Rate continues to be maintained at a considerably higher level than for the country as a whole, which latter figure also showed a decline. The rates were respectively, Whitehaven 19.8, England and Wales 15.8.

The Crude General Death Rate was 0.2 per 1,000 lower at 12.5, as compared with a Rate of 11.6 for the whole country.

As usual, of diseases to which deaths were attributed, those of the Heart and Circulatory System easily topped the list, accounting for 137 or 45% of the total deaths. Next in order of frequency came Cancer—32 deaths; Pneumonia and Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases—32; and Tuberculosis—25.

The Infantile Mortality Rate, or number of deaths of infants under one year of age per thousand live births, showed an improvement of 6, and the figure 39 is the best rate that has ever been recorded locally. It is still, however, in excess of the rate for the country generally, which again established a record low level at 30.

Tuberculosis deaths on the other hand again present a very disquieting feature. Locally there has been a very considerable deterioration over the past two years. In 1950 the number of deaths was again up by 25% on the previous year's figure, and the Death Rate from this disease was almost three times that of the country as a whole. The local figures are all the more disappointing since national figures show a steady, if slow, improvement—the national over-all rate having been

halved in the last twenty years. It is obvious that much more intensive efforts by the responsible authorities are urgently needed if any appreciable headway is to be made in the fight against this scourge, and the position in this area calls for the closest scrutiny.

Notifiable Diseases—other than Tuberculosis—presented a much more satisfactory picture. The incidence rates for these compared very favourably with the corresponding rates for the country as a whole.

For the fourth year in succession there was not even a case of Diphtheria in the Borough, and there has not been a death from this disease since 1936, when immunisation was introduced. Even the most sceptical can scarcely deny that immunisation must be given credit for this, and one must hope that the removal of apparent danger will not result in the neglect of this invaluable line of preventive treatment.

With regard to Housing, still the major problem, little remains to be said that has not been said in the past. Although close on 300 houses were provided during the year, the big majority of these have perforce to go to families without a home of their own who have been living as sub-tenants and sharing houses with "in-laws," often in overcrowded conditions. A sufficient margin of new houses, therefore, is not available to make any real headway in eradicating the unfit properties still in occupation. Repairs at post-war costs to houses let at pre-war rents to an extent sufficient to keep these up to even a reasonable standard of fitness, soon outstrip the limits of "a reasonable expense" as stipulated by the Housing Acts. Moreover, other considerations such as congested and unsuitable sites make it undesirable in many cases that the life of sub-standard properties be prolonged any longer than is absolutely necessary. So the problem lingers on—the provision of new houses being to a large extent cancelled out by the deterioration taking place in the older properties.

I wish to express my continued gratitude to the members of this and other departments who have given help and co-operation throughout the year, and also to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their continued interest and support in all matters pertaining to the health of the community.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. INNES,

Medical Officer of Health.

A—STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough in acres	4,315
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid-year, 1950)	24,340
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1950) accord- ing to Rate Books	6,392
Rateable Value (1st April, 1950)	£114,753
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£440

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate ...	232	239	471
—Illegitimate ...	6	7	13
Total ...	238	246	484

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population 19.8

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Still Births—Legitimate ...	9	4	13
—Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	9	4	13

Rate per 1,000 total births 26.4

DEATHS.		Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths (all ages)	... ..	168	137	305
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	... ..		12.5	
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	... ..		14.2	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

		Rate per 1,000 (Live & Still)	
		Deaths.	Births.
From Sepsis	... ..	—	—
From other causes	... ..	2	4.02
Total		2	4.02

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	39
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		38
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		77

Deaths from

Cancer (all ages)	... ..	32
Measles (all ages)	... ..	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	1
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	... ..	—

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population in the Borough at the middle of 1950 was 24,340, an increase of 650 compared with the mid-year estimate for 1949.

The population at the last census and the mid-year estimates since are shown below:—

	<i>Actual Count at Census.</i>	<i>Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimates.</i>
1931	21,142	21,270
1932	—	21,400
1933	—	21,220
1934 (Borough extended) ...	—	23,185
1935	—	23,060
1936	—	22,970
1937	—	22,380
1938	—	22,350
1939	—	22,370
1940	—	22,960
1941	—	23,640
1942	—	22,940
1943	—	22,490
1944	—	21,650
1945	—	21,600
1946	—	22,390
1947	—	22,580
1948	—	23,380
1949	—	23,690
1950	—	24,340

BIRTHS.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population	19.8
„ „ England and Wales	15.8
„ „ 126 Great Towns	17.6
„ „ 148 Smaller Towns	16.7
(population 25,000—50,000)	
„ „ London Ad. County	17.8
„ „ County of Cumberland	17.6

The number of live births registered during the year was 484, 238 males and 246 females, of whom 6 males and 7 females were illegitimate. This shows a decrease of 28 births as compared with the number for the previous year. Illegitimate births were eight less and constituted 2.7% of the total as against 4.1 for the previous year, and 4.9 for the whole country. The Birth Rate was 19.8 per thousand of estimated resident population, the rate being 1.8 less than the rate for 1949, whereas the rate for the country as a whole, 15.8, showed a decrease of 0.9.

The following Table shows the average annual number of births and average annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population by five-year periods since 1890, with the corresponding rate for England and Wales along with the actual figures since 1945:—

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven.		England and Wales.
	Average Annual No. of Births.	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.
1891—1895	586	32.0	30.5
1896—1900	595	30.9	29.3
1901—1905	644	33.3	28.2
1906—1910	592	30.6	26.3
1911—1915	568	29.6	23.6
1916—1920	533	27.8	20.1
1921—1925	559	27.6	19.9
1926—1930	485	24.0	16.7
1931—1935	449	20.5	15.0
1936—1940	416	18.4	14.9
1941—1945	446	19.8	16.2
1946—1950	507	21.8	18.0
	Number of Births.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.
1946	506	22.6	19.1
1947	552	24.4	20.5
1948	484	20.7	17.9
1949	512	21.6	16.7
1950	484	19.8	15.8

DEATHS.

Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	12.5
„ „ England and Wales	...	...	11.6
„ „ 126 Great Towns	...	...	12.3
„ „ 148 Smaller Towns	...	...	11.6
„ „ London	...	...	11.8
„ „ County of Cumberland	...	...	12.6

The number of deaths of residents belonging to the Borough, after making allowance for inward and outward transfers of persons normally resident in the town who died away from home, and of persons who died in the town but who did not normally reside there, was 305, viz., 168 males and 137 females, which gives a Crude Death Rate of 12.5 per thousand.

The actual number of deaths was 3 more than in the previous year, male deaths being 26 more and females 23 less. The Rate was down by 0.2 as compared with the Rate for 1949. The Rate for England and Wales, viz., 11.6, also showed a decrease of 0.1.

The chief causes of death during the year were Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System 137, Cancer 32, Respiratory Diseases, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc., 32, and Tuberculosis 25.

The following Table shows the average annual number of deaths and the average annual Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population by five-year periods since 1890, with the corresponding rate for England and Wales, along with the actual figures since 1945:—

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven.		England and Wales
	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Average Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of resident population	Average Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of population.
1891—1895	372	19.9	18.7
1896—1900	368	18.1	17.7
1901—1905	368	19.2	16.0
1906—1910	393	20.4	14.7
1911—1915	350	18.2	14.3
1916—1920	315	17.3	14.4
1921—1925	320	15.6	12.1
1926—1930	292	13.8	12.1
1931—1935	281	12.8	12.0
1936—1940	307	13.6	12.5
1941—1945	270	12.0	12.8
1946—1950	305	13.1	11.7
	Number of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 of resident population	Death Rate per 1,000 of population.
1946	274	12.2	12.0
1947	373	16.5	12.3
1948	271	11.6	11.0
1949	302	12.7	11.8
1950	305	12.5	11.6

The ages of all cases who died during 1950 and the cause of death are shown in the following Tables:—

AGE AT DEATH OF ALL CASES, WHITEHAVEN BOROUGH, 1950.

Age Groups	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	Over 75	Total
Males ..	14	2	1	—	1	—	2	—	2	8	8	13	25	43	49	168
Females ...	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	3	6	9	7	22	38	42	137

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1950.

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Males Females</i>	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	11	9
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	1
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	—
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	6	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	—	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	—	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	6	6
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	23	20
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	20	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	1	3
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	28	25
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	3	4
Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	14	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	—	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	3	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	—	2
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	24	23
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	—
All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	8	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	1
Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total all Causes					168	137

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Two maternal deaths took place within the year from "other causes."

The Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births was, therefore, 4.02, as compared with the following rates for the whole country:—

	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.	England and Wales.
From Sepsis	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>	0.12
From other causes ...	2	4.02	0.74
Total	2	4.02	0.86

	No. of Notifications.		
Notifications of			
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	10.06	5.81

INFANTILE DEATHS.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per thousand live births:—

Legitimate 38, Illegitimate 77	Total 39
England and Wales	30
126 Great Towns	34
148 Smaller Towns	29
London	26
County of Cumberland	35

The number of deaths of children under one year of age during 1950 was 19, viz., 14 males and 5 females, which gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 39 per 1,000 registered live births.

This rate shows an improvement of 6 per 1,000 compared with that for the previous year and is the best rate ever recorded for the Borough, the previous best being 45 in 1946 and again in 1949.

The chief causes of the Infantile Deaths were Prematurity and Congenital Defects, which accounted for 10 of the 19 deaths, and Bronchitis and Pneumonia which accounted for six. Twelve or 63 per cent. of the deaths occurred in the neo-natal period, that is within the first month of life. The Mortality Rates for Male and Female Infants respectively were 59 and 20 per 1,000.

INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY AGES AND CAUSE OF DEATH, 1950.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	AGE IN WEEKS.					AGE IN MONTHS					Total Deaths.
	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	Under 1 Mth	1—2	2—3	3—6	6—9	9—12	
Premature Birth	6	1	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Congenital Malformations and Debility	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	—	6
Accident	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Birth Injury	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	1	—	—	12	1	2	3	1	—	19

The following Table shows the annual average number of Infantile Deaths and the annual average rate per 1,000 live births by five-year periods since 1890, with the corresponding rate for England and Wales, along with the actual figures since 1945:—

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven		England and Wales
	Average Annual Number of Deaths under one year of age.	Average Annual Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 registered live births	Average Annual Infantile Mortality Rate per 1 000 registered live births
1891—1895	88	148	151
1896—1900	89	150	156
1901—1905	92	143	138
1906—1910	84	142	117
1911—1915	79	140	110
1916—1920	62	117	90
1921—1925	57	102	76
1926—1930	44	89	68
1931—1935	33	74	62
1936—1940	27	65	55
1941—1945	25	56	50
1946—1950	24	47	36
1946	23	45	43
1947	32	58	41
1948	24	50	34
1949	23	45	32
1950	19	39	30

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

These are shown at the beginning of the Report. There were no changes in staff.

2. SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE AREA.

(a) *Laboratory Facilities.* These are provided at the Cumberland Laboratory, Carlisle, the Public Health Laboratory Service. The Bacteriology necessary for the diagnosis, prevention, and control of infectious disease is carried out without charge to the Local Authority, the cost being defrayed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

Under the same scheme, samples of milks taken on their way to the consumer, are examined free of charge.

Water samples are examined by Mr. C. J. H. Stock, County Analyst, Darlington.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary matters are fully dealt with in a report by Mr. Lord, Sanitary Inspector, which is printed as an Appendix, and few matters call for special comment.

1. HOUSING.

During 1950, two hundred and seventy-six permanent houses were completed by the Local Authority. This figure includes 158 "Easiform" houses and 116 "Traditional" houses and 2 houses and shops. In addition, one hundred and fifty-six more were in various stages of erection at the close of the year.

Building was distributed as follows:—

<i>Schemes.</i>	<i>No. in Completed In course of Scheme. in 1950. erection 1950</i>		
Valley No. 1	70	52	—
Valley No. 2	180	146	4
Valley No. 3	170	76	94
Valley No. 4	50	—	50
Corkickle Houses and Shops	2	2	—
Valley Shops and Maisonettes	4	—	4
Valley No. 5	120	—	4

In addition, twenty-two houses were completed by private enterprise, and fifteen were in course of erection.

The total number of Corporation houses actually occupied on 31st December, 1950, was 2,762 (including pre-fabs.).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

During the year the Cleator Moor Diversion section of the modified Ennerdale Water Scheme was completed and the cross connections between the new and existing mains made at Hazelholme and Bowthorn Road, but the new main is not yet in use.

The contract has also been let for the continuation of the main from Bowthorn Road to the site of the new reservoir at Summergrove to Harras Moor but work has not yet commenced.

Delivery of the 33ins. and 30ins. diameter pipes for the Lake to Summergrove section has proceeded at a satisfactory rate during the year and it is expected that this contract can be let early in 1951.

The water is chlorinated on its way to the town, but there is not sufficient gravitation to permit of filtration. One sample (bacteriological and chemical) taken prior to chlorination, and ten samples (bacteriological) taken after chlorination, were submitted for examination. All the chlorinated samples, with possibly one slight exception, were reported to be of a pure and wholesome character, showing that chlorination was being effectively carried out. The results of examination of the unchlorinated sample are shown below:—

<i>Unchlorinated Sample</i> (20.11.50)	<i>Parts per 100,000</i>	
Chlorine as Chlorides	.....	0.8000
Nitrogen as Nitrates	.....	0.0230
Ammonia	.....	None
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	0.0023
Oxygen Absorption	.....	0.0427
Injurious Metals	.....	None
Total Solid Matter dried at 100°C.	.....	3.0000
pH value of Sample	.....	6.0
Temporary Hardness	0.20	Degrees
Permanent Hardness	0.40	„
Colour of Sample on Hazen Scale:	0	
Appearance of Sample in 2ft. tube:	Clear and bright.	
Odour when heated to 50°C.	.....	Very faint earthy.

Microscopical Examination.

Minute deposit from $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon, consisting chiefly of earthy matter, vegetable debris, and some diatoms.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar	
@ 37°C. after 72 hours ...	1 in 2 ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar	
@ 20/22°C. after 72 hours ...	5 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test	
@ 37°C. after 72 hours ...	Negative in 100 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test	
@ 45°C. in 40 ml. ...	Negative

Observations.

The chemical analysis of this sample shows that it is of a high degree of purity and free from any objectionable deposit. The sample afforded evidence of the presence of Zinc compounds to the extent of 0.06 part per 100,000 but this has no hygienic significance. In my opinion the supply represented by the sample is of good and wholesome quality for human consumption.

The bacteriological examination affords no evidence of contamination by undesirable drainage, and no possible objection could be taken to the use of this supply for human consumption.

(Signed) CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

The results of the bacteriological examination of ten samples after chlorination are shown in the following tabulation:—

WATER ANALYSIS.

Date	Before or After Chlorination	Number of Colonies on Nutrient Agar after 72 hours: 20/22°C.		Presumptive B.Coli Test at 37°C. after 72 hours	Clostridium Welchii Test at 44°C. in 40ml. after 48 hours	Remarks.
21. 1.50	After	1 per ml.	3 in 2 ml.	Negative in 100 ml.	Negative	Of good and wholesome quality
4. 3.50	"	3 in 2 ml.	4 per ml.	Positive in 100 ml. Negative in 90 ml.	"	" "
27. 3.50	"	3 in 2 ml.	3 per ml.	Negative in 100 ml.	"	" "
3. 5.50	"	2 per ml.	2 per ml.	"	"	" "
20. 5.50	"	5 in 2 ml.	7 in 2 ml.	"	"	" "
11. 7.50	"	1 in 2 ml.	1 in 2 ml.	"	"	" "
30. 9.50	"	1 in 2 ml.	1 in 2 ml.	"	"	" "
23. 10.50	"	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	"	"	" "
10. 11.50	"	1 per ml.	11 per ml.	"	1 large colony in 40 ml.	See note below.
28. 12.50	"	1 in 2 ml.	0 per ml.	"	Negative	Of good and wholesome quality

NOTE—The sample discloses the growth of one large colony in the Clostridium Welchii group which is most unusual when the rest of the bacteriological results show that there is no positive reaction in the Coliform Test in 100 ml. of sample and that the organisms growing on Agar at 37°C. and 20/22°C. are completely normal. The only conclusion is that the occurrence of one colony in the Clostridium Welchii group is completely fortuitous, and this circumstance cannot, in my opinion, have any direct influence upon the purity of the supply, as represented by this sample, for human consumption.

No question of plumbo-solvency arose, and apart from the regular chlorination, no action was required in regard to contamination.

The average supply is approximately one and a half million gallons per day.

Four houses were provided with an indoor supply during the year, and 7 houses which had a joint supply have been voluntarily closed as dwelling houses, leaving 24 houses with a population of 102 which are without a direct water supply.

Whilst dealing with water and water samples, it might not be inappropriate to give here the report on the examination of a sample of water taken from the Public Swimming Bath.
Sample from Salt Water Swimming Bath (22. 8. 50).

Number of colonies on Nutrient

Agar at 37°C. after 72 hours ... 0 per ml.

Number of colonies on Nutrient

Agar at 20/22°C. after 72 hours ... 0 per ml.

Presumptive B. Coli Test at 37°C.

after 72 hours ... Negative in 100 ml.

Clostridium Welchii Test at 44°C.

in 40 ml. after 48 hours ... Negative

Residual Chlorine ... Faint trace

The sample is practically sterile.

(Signed) CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

D.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

I. *Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).*

Infectious diseases notified during the year are shown by age-groups in the following table with the number admitted to Hospital and the number of deaths from these diseases.

The number of notifications received was small, the incidence rates being generally lower than the corresponding rates for the country as a whole, but there were three deaths—one each from Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Poliomyelitis, and Broncho-Pneumonia complicating Whooping Cough.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	14	—	—	—	1	2	10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	17	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	3	3	4	1	—	11 (all females)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal-Fever	5	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Poliomyelitis	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Measles	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	26	1	5	6	3	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Scarlet Fever.

Fourteen cases were notified during the year. This gives a rate of 0.57 per 1,000 of population as compared with 1.50 for England and Wales. None was admitted to hospital, and there were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

For the fourth year in succession no cases were notified. This gives a rate of nil per 1,000 of population as compared with 0.02 for England and Wales.

The following Table shows the average number of notifications of Diphtheria by five year periods, the incidence per 1,000 of population, the average annual number of deaths, and the mortality rate per 100 cases notified. The individual figures for the years 1936 (when immunisation was first commenced) to 1950 inclusive, are also shown.

Period.	Average Annual Number of cases notified.	Average Annual attack rate per 1,000 of population.	Average Annual number of deaths.	Average Annual fatality rate per 100 notified cases.
1896—1900	7	0.4	2.0	29
1901—1905	12	0.6	3.4	28
1906—1910	8	0.4	2.2	28
1911—1915	9	0.5	2.0	22
1916—1920	7	0.4	2.0	29
1921—1925	16	0.8	0.6	4
1926—1930	14	0.7	0.8	6
1931—1935	18	0.8	2.2	12
1936—1940	15	0.7	0.6	4
1941—1945	4	0.2	0.0	0
1946—1950	0.6	0.02	0.0	0
*1936	31	1.3	3	10
1937	24	1.1	0	0
1938	14	0.6	0	0
1939	2	0.1	0	0
1940	4	0.2	0	0
1941	5	0.2	0	0
1942	2	0.1	0	0
1943	3	0.1	0	0
1944	8	0.4	0	0
1945	2	0.1	0	0
1946	3	0.1	0	0
1947	0	0.0	0	0
1948	0	0.0	0	0
1949	0	0.0	0	0
1950	0	0.0	0	0

* Immunisation commenced in 1936.

It is worthy of note that there has not been a single death from Diphtheria since 1936.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

The responsibility for this has now passed entirely to the County Council, and I am indebted to the Divisional County Medical Officer for the information relating to the Borough.

During 1950, a total of 393 new immunisations were completed, 325 in the 0-5 years-of-age group, and 68 in the 5-15 year groups.

In addition, 457 children were re-immunised, re-immunisation being available for the children who have been immunised in infancy and are now beginning school, and for older children whose immunisation was done more than four years ago.

The total number of children immunised since the scheme was begun under local arrangements in 1936, has now reached the total of 10,458, and these are shown by ages at the time of their original immunisation in the Table hereunder.

PERCENTAGES OF CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED.

(a) 0-5 years of age.

The number of children in the age-groups 1946-1950 inclusive who were immunised on the 31st December, 1950, and of whom the Local Authority has details, was 1,233, a nett increase for the year of 16. The number of children in these groups, according to a figure supplied by the Registrar-General, was 2,311, so that the percentage immunised was 53, the same exactly as the figure for the previous year.

(b) 5-15 years of age.

The number of children in the age-groups 1936-1945 inclusive who were immunised on the 31st December, 1950, and of whom the Local Authority has details, was 3,860—44 less than the figure for the previous year. The number of children in these groups, according to a figure supplied by the Registrar-General, was 3,825, so that the percentage immunised was 100.

It should, however, be pointed out that the table does not allow for deaths, removals, etc., in the numbers shown as immunised. The fact remains that this group is to all intents and purposes wholly immunised.

(c) Over 15 years of age.

The number over 15 years of age on the 31st December, 1950, who have been immunised was 5,365.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

PERSONS INOCULATED EACH YEAR 1936--1950.

Age in years on 31st Dec. of the corre- sponding year.	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	
0	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	27	52	22	16	20	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st December, 1950. 1235
1	—	—	—	2	4	42	125	189	206	168	241	240	272	198	220	
2	—	—	2	12	13	77	130	139	113	58	156	42	58	40	63	
3	—	—	6	19	23	73	120	99	65	8	28	23	10	3	15	
4	66	38	30	29	42	96	109	86	53	16	13	14	7	16	7	
5	222	139	146	126	162	188	134	120	53	28	17	18	25	35	18	Total inoculated aged 5-15 years on 31st December, 1950. 5860
6	222	73	68	37	79	116	58	71	48	37	19	14	14	32	55	
7	145	60	45	30	52	62	34	29	39	11	7	7	4	14	11	
8	19	163	41	12	32	61	34	32	46	7	3	2	1	7	2	
9	1	250	36	28	23	44	33	30	31	7	2	7	2	9	—	
10	1	272	55	23	15	33	28	22	16	10	4	5	5	9	—	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1950. 5565
11	205	258	58	25	27	28	21	17	17	3	1	—	6	4	2	
12	208	118	63	21	10	30	24	15	19	2	—	—	—	3	—	
13	211	62	52	20	10	17	17	13	15	2	—	—	—	—	—	
14	204	43	58	15	1	15	6	8	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	
15 and over	—	8	4	—	—	65	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1950. 5565
Total each yr.	1504	1484	664	399	494	947	878	874	724	363	518	404	426	386	395	Grand Total... 10458

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Five cases were notified, all from Whitehaven Hospital. The rate per 1,000 total births was 10.06 as compared with 5.81 for the country as a whole, but one of the cases did not belong to the Borough, so that the figure for Whitehaven cases alone would be 8.05.

Pneumonia.

Seventeen cases of Acute Primary, or Influenzal Pneumonia were notified, giving a rate of 0.70 per 1,000 of population, exactly the same as the figure for England and Wales. The number of deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) was 11, 5 more than in the previous year, the Death Rate from this disease being 0.45 as compared with 0.46 for the whole country.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case was notified.

Erysipelas.

Four cases were notified, giving a rate of 0.16 per 1,000 of population, compared with 0.17 for England and Wales.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

Three cases were notified, giving a rate of 0.12 per 1,000 of population, the rate for England and Wales being 0.03. All these cases recovered. Another case, which was not notified, died in Cumberland Infirmary. It was unknown to us until the transferable deaths were received.

Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis.

Two cases were notified, giving a rate of 0.08 per 1,000 of population compared with 0.18 for England and Wales. One was a mild abortive case without paralysis. The other was, unfortunately, a fatal paralytic case in an adult.

Measles.

Only one case was notified throughout the year. The rate was 0.04 per 1,000 of population compared with 8.39 for England and Wales.

Whooping Cough.

Twenty-six cases were notified, giving a rate of 1.07 per 1,000 of population compared with 3.60 for England and Wales. There was one death from this disease.

II.—CANCER.

There were 32 deaths from Cancer during the year, five less than in 1949. The Mortality Rate from this disease was 1.31 per 1,000 of population, as compared with the figure for the country as a whole of 1.99.

The primary sites of the lesions were as follows:—

<i>Males.</i>				<i>Females.</i>			
Palate	...	...	1	Palate	...	...	1
Larynx	...	...	1	Pharynx	...	...	1
Pharynx	...	...	1	Stomach	...	...	7
Stomach	...	...	6	Colon	...	...	1
Colon	...	...	1	Rectum	...	...	1
Rectum	...	...	2	Breast	...	...	4
				Ovary	...	...	1
				Uterus	...	...	2
				Bronchus	...	...	1
				Mediastinum	...	...	1
			—				—
			12				20
			—				—

The average age at death of all cases was 65 years—of males 68, and of females 64.

The Death Rate from Cancer in the Borough as compared with the rate for England and Wales by five-year periods is shown in the following Table, together with the figures since 1945:—

Period	Borough of Whitehaven		England and Wales
	Average no. of deaths	Average rate per 1,000 of population	Average rate per 1,000 of population
1901—05	17	0.90	0.87
1906—10	15	0.77	0.94
1911—15	17	0.87	1.05
1916—20	24	1.30	1.18
1921—25	23	1.11	1.27
1926—30	25	1.19	1.41
1931—35	31	1.39	1.53
1936—40	39	1.74	1.66
1941—45	34	1.41	1.87
1946—50	39	1.69	1.88
1946	38	1.69	1.84
1947	53	2.55	1.85
1948	36	1.54	1.86
1949	37	1.56	1.87
1950	32	1.31	1.99

III.—PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was taken under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

IV.—TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the new cases and mortality for the Borough of Whitehaven during 1950, by age-groups and sex:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1— 5	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
5—10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
10—15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—20	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	1
20—25	0	4	1	0	0	2	0	0
25—35	4	5	0	0	2	6	0	0
35—45	6	0	1	1	5	1	1	0
45—55	5	0	1	0	3	0	1	0
55—65	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
65 and upwards	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total	21	13	6	3	11	9	4	1

Total new cases 43

Total Deaths 25

New Cases.—New cases include 1 male Pulmonary case notified from H.M. Forces, and 8 deaths which had not been previously notified. Altogether, the new cases show an increase of 4 as compared with the figure for the previous year, the male cases being ten more and the female cases were six less.

Deaths.—Deaths for the year were 5 more than in the previous year, male deaths being 6 more and female deaths 1 less.

Of the 25 deaths, 8 had not been notified prior to death as suffering from this disease. This represents 32% of the total—an excessively high proportion. Of the five non-respiratory deaths, only one had been previously notified. In all such cases an explanation was asked for from the practitioner concerned. Four were certified by the Coroner.

DEATH RATE.

Death Rate per 1,000 of population:—

				<i>England and Whitehaven.</i>	<i>Wales.</i>
Respiratory	...	...	...	0.82	0.32
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	0.20	0.04
All Forms	...	...	...	1.02	0.36

The rate shows a deterioration of 0.18 as compared with the rate for the previous year, and is almost 3 times the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

The following Table shows the Death Rate per 1,000 of population from Tubercular Diseases in Whitehaven, as compared with England and Wales as a whole by five-year groups from 1911, together with the figures since 1945:—

Year Groups	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)			Tuberculosis (all forms).		
	Whitehaven.		England and Wales. Death Rate per 1,000	Whitehaven.		England and Wales Death. Rate per 1,000
	Average Number of Deaths.	Average Rate per 1,000.		Average Number of Deaths.	Average Rate per 1,000.	
1911—15	19.8	1.03	1.05	34.6	1.81	1.41
1916—20	22.2	1.22	1.11	33.6	1.85	1.48
1921—25	22.2	1.10	0.86	29.8	1.47	1.08
1926—30	20.0	0.95	0.76	25.2	1.20	0.94
1931—35	20.4	0.94	0.61	26.8	1.23	0.81
1936—40	20.6	0.91	0.56	24.8	1.10	0.67
1941—45	17.0	0.76	0.55	23.6	1.05	0.66
1946—50	16.6	0.71	0.42	21.0	0.90	0.48
1946	21	0.94	0.46	28	1.25	0.54
1947	13	0.58	0.47	17	0.75	0.55
1948	14	0.60	0.44	15	0.64	0.51
1949	15	0.63	0.40	20	0.84	0.45
1950	20	0.82	0.32	25	1.02	0.36

The number of cases belonging to the district who received Sanatorium treatment during the year are shown in the following Table:—

SANATORIUM TREATMENT

			In Institutions 1st Jan. 1950.	Admitted	Dis- charged.	Died.	In Institutions 1st Jan. 1951
PULMONARY CASES:							
Men	...	...	6	7	8	—	5
Women	...	...	7	4	7	1	3
Boys	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Girls	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
NON-PULMONARY CASES:							
Men	...	...	2	—	1	—	1
Women	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Boys	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Girls	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
OBSERVATION CASES:							
Males	...		4	—	3	—	1
Females	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Total			19	12	19	1	11

The above Table shows the number of Tuberculosis cases and Observation Tuberculosis cases from the Borough of Whitehaven that received Sanatorium treatment under the County Council Scheme during 1950. Altogether 31 cases from Whitehaven were treated in Sanatoria during the year, a decrease of 13 as compared with 1949.

The number of notified cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1950 was:—

Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	...	95
—Females	...	...	...	...	89
Non-Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	...	35
—Females	...	...	...	...	27
					<hr/>
Total					246
					<hr/>

APPENDIX.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
REPORT.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
81, LOWTHER STREET,
WHITEHAVEN.

February, 1951.

To the Medical Officer of Health,
Whitehaven.

Sir,

I beg to submit my twenty-eighth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

Sixty-six preliminary notices have been served during the year and it has again not been necessary to serve any statutory notices under the Public Health Acts. Only work of an urgent nature has been asked for and this has always been done with as little delay as possible.

INSPECTIONS

Visits to slaughterhouses	500
„ „ bakehouses	66
„ „ factories	110
„ „ dairies	34
„ „ food premises	325
„ „ ice cream shops	29
„ „ shops	41
„ „ verminous houses	33
„ „ offensive trades	10
„ „ caravans	25
„ „ new drainage works	53
„ „ vessels in harbour	109
„ „ rat infested premises	61
Cases of Infectious disease investigated	48
Visits after Infectious disease	31
Water samples obtained	13
Ice cream samples obtained	23
Housing Inspections P.H. Act	342
Housing Inspections Housing Act	—
Interviews with owners or occupiers	573
Miscellaneous	164
Total ...	2590

IMPROVEMENTS

Obstructed drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	24
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	11
New Gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	6
New pedestal W.C.'s fixed	...	...	...	...	3
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	4
New flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	3
House roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	31
New spouting provided	...	...	...	...	3
New sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	5
Inside water supply provided	...	...	...	...	4
Plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	22
Handrails provided to stairs	...	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Windows repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	22
Foodstores provided	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	2
New dust bins provided	...	...	...	...	20
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	20
Houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	6
Total ...					192

FACTORIES

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection tations	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecut'd
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	54	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authority (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	104	122	—	—
(b) others	—	—	—	—
(3) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	132	176	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found			Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	10	10	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	17	17	—	4	—

Shops.

Forty-one visits were paid to shops, and it was not found necessary to make any complaint.

Smoke Abatement.

It was unnecessary to take any action in this respect during the year.

Verminous Houses.

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was 10, viz.:

Five Council Houses.

Five Other Houses.

In two of the Council Houses the infestation was bad, and necessitated stripping and fumigating, but the remaining cases were of a minor nature and the premises were cleared by spraying with Zaldecide.

HOUSING.

The position with regard to housing remains very much the same as referred to in my last report.

Sixty-seven houses were closed voluntarily by the owners on the tenants being re-housed by the Committee.

With regard to repairs of old houses, this work is still confined to matters of an urgent nature and no works involving extensive repair have been called for owing to the continued shortage of labour and material and the high cost of carrying out major alterations.

1.—*Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year.*

(1)	(a)	Total number of Dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	925
	(b)	Number of inspections made	1123
(2)	(a)	Number of Dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	237
	(b)	Number of inspections made	289
(3)		Number of Dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	212
(4)		Number of Dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	713

2.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of Dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	2
Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	66
Number of Dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied	64

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.*

(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	nil

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------|
| (2) | Number of Dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) | By owners | <i>nil</i> |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | <i>nil</i> |
| (b) | Proceedings under Public Health Acts: | |
| (1) | Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | <i>nil</i> |
| (2) | Number of Dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) | By owners | <i>nil</i> |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | <i>nil</i> |
| (c) | Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936: | |
| (1) | Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | <i>nil</i> |
| (2) | Number of Dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | <i>nil</i> |
| (d) | Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936: | |
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | <i>nil</i> |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | <i>nil</i> |

Overcrowding

The position with regard to overcrowding remains very much as it was twelve months ago. No accurate figure can be given without making a survey of the district; it is fairly safe to assume that, owing to marriage of sons and daughters who are compelled to live in the house of their parents, overcrowding still remains a very serious problem.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply

The supervision of the milk supply is now confined to its storage and distribution by retailers, the Local Authority having no control over its production.

There are 12 persons registered for the distribution of milk in the Borough, viz.: Five persons with dairy premises, six who distribute direct from a farm or distribution centre, and one who sells bottled milk only from a shop.

Thirty-four visits were paid to dairies and cowsheds, and, generally, they were found to be conducted satisfactorily.

FOOD PREMISES

The campaign for raising the standard of hygiene in all food preparing and food handling establishments in the Borough has been continued throughout the year. The task is necessarily slow as there is no short cut to success in the matter of attempting to alter life-long personal habits. Educational hygiene is the key to the problem and only repeated visits to the staffs can achieve improvements. There is, however, a general appreciation among the trades concerned of the value of this upward hygienic trend and co-operation has been spontaneous, no opposition having been encountered at any time.

As stated last year, all premises where food is actually prepared—i.e., butchers' shops, fried fish shops, snack bars, restaurants, bakehouses, &c., have already installed facilities for observing cleanly practices. The introduction during the year of the Model Bye-Laws relating to food handling is another step forward, and lays down a code of practice for persons handling foodstuffs. The work of dealing with all food shops and stores is now proceeding, and grocery shops, fruit shops, and stores must now be provided with proper facilities and observe a higher standard than hitherto.

During the year 325 visits were paid to food premises and in all cases the occupiers were helpful and eager to advance this important aspect of their businesses.

Ice Cream.

The public interest in ice cream as an article of food and the attention given to this commodity by this department continues. There are nine manufacturers in the Borough and 28 retailers. Most of these retailers sell pre-packed ice cream of reputable make from the counter-type refrigerators and this affords a safe and convenient method of retailing ice cream. Twenty-nine inspections were made of ice cream premises and 23 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:

Grade 1	.....	18
Grade 2	.....	3
Grade 3	.....	1
Grade 4	.....	1

showing that the improvement in manufacturing methods from a cleanliness point of view had continued, as Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory. Repeat samples of the two unsatisfactory samples mentioned above resulted in Grade 2 being reached in each case.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.

The Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Pottery Road, continues in use for the slaughtering of all animals in the area and all meat supplies for Whitehaven, Workington, and the Ennerdale Rural District are drawn from this establishment.

One inspector is necessarily employed practically whole time, as a 100 per cent. inspection of carcasses and offals is carried out before distribution. The hygienic conduct of the establishment is also supervised, and a close liaison maintained with the Ministry staff and the meat trades involved.

Regarding the premises themselves, improvements have been carried out during the year. A complete system of overhead steel runways of the most up-to-date pattern has now been installed and the old system scrapped. This has resulted in a speedier handling of carcasses and has increased the hanging facilities of the cooling room, bringing the hanging capacity up to 250 sides of beef at any one time if necessary. The premises have been re-decorated, and this establishment is now one of the most up-to-date slaughterhouses in the North of England. Further improvements, mainly connected with stunning and splitting operations, are contemplated for the future.

The following Table shows the number of animals slaughtered and the condemnations during the year:—

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,645	1,466	3,406	16,359	346
Number inspected ...	2,645	1,466	3,406	16,359	346
<i>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	11	31	45	86	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	81		11	93	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	3.00		1.65	1.16	3.18
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	12	44	3	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	852		—	—	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	22.01		0.09	—	2.80

Total Weight of Meat Condemned, 45 tons, 6 cwts, 68 lbs.

OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD SURRENDERED

Miscellaneous Tinned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	734 lbs.
Miscellaneous Tinned Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	915 „
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	...	...	476 „
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	69 „
Frozen Beef	...	...	...	...	...	475 „
Bacon, Ham, Pork	...	...	...	...	...	225 „
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	985 „
Various	...	...	...	...	...	257 „
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	30 „
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	7400 „
Dried Fruits	...	...	...	...	...	258 „
Yeast	...	...	...	...	...	350 „
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	900 „
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	280 „
Chickens	...	...	...	...	...	86 „
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	170 „
Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	122 „
Total						13,732 „

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is still only one offensive trade on the Register, viz.:—A Rag and Bone Dealer.

Ten visits have been paid to the premises and generally they have been conducted satisfactorily.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. LORD,

Sanitary Inspector.

